

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT

No 4

In a time of universal deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act -- George Orwell
Friends,

We are preparing this World Rainforest Report in the usual turmoil - getting ready to go back down to Sydney for a demonstration outside the Annual General Meeting of EMAIL, a large Australian electrical goods manufacturer, to try to stop their logging of Queensland's rainforests; writing letters to all 220 Members of the Australian Federal Parliament to find out which of them support World Heritage listing for these forests; helping organise a benefit concert to raise funds for the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior sunk recently in New Zealand and, of course, dealing with the usual (and mounting) volume of correspondence.

Lots of bad news as usual, but... is there a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel? The news from Brazil contained inside makes us think so.

The following quote is from Count Leo Tolstoy's, "The Kingdom of God is Within You", 1893.

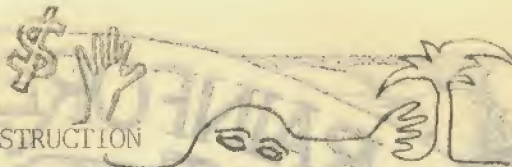
"The transition of men from one structure of life to another does not always take place in the manner in which the sand is poured from an hour-glass, -- one kernel of sand after another, from the first to the last, -- but rather, like water pouring into a vessel that is immersed in the water; when it at first admits the water evenly and slowly at one side, and then, from the weight of the water already taken in, suddenly dips down fast and almost all at once receives all the water which it can hold.

The same occurs with societies of men at the transition from one concept, and so from one structure of life, to another. It is only at first that one person after another slowly and gradually receives the new truth by an inner way and follows it through life; but after a certain diffusion it is no longer received in an internal manner, nor gradually, but all at once, almost involuntarily ... the movement keeps accelerating and accelerating, expanding and expanding, like a snowball, until there germinates a public opinion which is in accord with the new truth, and the remaining mass of men no longer singly, but in a body, under the pressure of this new force, passes over to the side of the new truth, and a new structure of life is established, which is in agreement with this new truth."

Rainforest Information Centre
JULY 1985

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The most significant breakthrough yet in protecting the tropical forests has come about through the pressure of environmentalists world wide who have convinced the World Bank to delay funding for the Polonoroeste program in Brazil.

However, this is only a beginning. Now that it is realised that it is possible to convince the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to consider the environment, it is important that the full extent of the multilateral funding problem be exposed, and appropriate action taken.

In a special double issue that is the best summary of the situation to date, "The Ecologist" (vol 15 No.1/2, available from Worthyvale Manor Farm, Camelford, Cornwall, UK - price 4 pounds) accuses the World Bank of "creating the present escalating human misery, malnutrition and famine in the Third World". Backing up the claim, the magazine contains articles by acknowledged experts on:

- * how African famine is far from an "act of God";
- * deforestation causing flooding and erosion in Malaysia;
- * development schemes in India reducing availability of drinking and irrigation water;
- * tsetse fly eradication in Africa and resulting effects;
- * the assumption that economic development is the only way to increase food availability to rural people, and outlining particular problems in Tanzania;
- * food exports and malnutrition in India, as well as impoverishment and famine resulting from World Bank projects in Madhya Pradesh;
- * corruption and deforestation in India;
- * destabilising world climate;
- * environmentally disruptive projects of multilateral development banks;
- * indifference of the World Bank to the plight of native peoples in Amazonia;
- * Polonoroeste in Western Amazonia. (the area where funding has since been delayed by the World Bank)

All in all, the magazine presents a severe indictment of the policies of the World Bank, and presents serious evidence that must be taken into account in future World Bank funding.

The multilateral development banks represent the largest source of official development aid for the less-developed countries. As dispensers of development assistance funds, they have been used as a foundation of foreign economic policy by developed countries.

The World Bank is the largest of these banks, and was set up as an adjunct to the International Monetary Fund for the purpose of providing stability to the international credit system.

As such, the World Bank has had a major influence on the development policies of borrowing nations. Simply, if you want cash, you do what is necessary to get it. What the World Bank will fund dictates what directions are possible for a poor country.

This is why it is of the utmost importance that the policies of the World Bank and similar bodies be changed to include suitable safeguards on the environment.

Some safeguards already exist. However, the machinery to implement them is non-existent: the World Bank has only one ecologist on its staff, according to some reports.

In a letter to the Rainforest Information Centre, Bruce M Rich, Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council in the USA, has pointed out that the newly sympathetic US Treasury Dept is deeply concerned about the poor environmental performance of the World Bank and other multilateral development banks, and has proposed a number of new guidelines for approval of projects. These include:

- * assigning a full time environmental staff member to each of the World Bank's six regional offices.
- * involving non government organisations and indigenous peoples of developing countries in planning and carrying out projects.
- * actively involving Ministers of environment and health of developing countries in formulating policies.
- * making plans conform to the 1980 World Conservation Strategy.
- * refusing to finance projects which will result in use of natural resources at unsustainable levels, threaten species extinctions, degrade protected natural areas or degrade the land and resource base on which indigenous people depend.
- * devote more resources to small-scale appropriate technologies instead of giant dams, highways and similar large scale, capital intensive projects.

* cease financing roadbuilding and settlement projects in tropical forests.

However, the US vote is not strong enough to direct policy without a broad consensus of other member nations. In order to have these proposals implemented, the support of World Bank Directors in many countries will have to be obtained.

The World Bank has an executive director for your country. Please write to this person asking for support for the proposals by the US Treasury outlined above. A copy should also be sent to the World Bank President.

WRITE TO:

The Executive Director
for (your country or region)
World Bank,
1818 H Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20433
USA



with a copy to A.W. Clausen, President, World Bank, at the same address.



INDONESIAN TRANSMIGRATION AND MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

The international campaign to change multilateral development bank policies now centres on the Indonesian Transmigration program, for which funding of over a billion dollars has already been approved (see a full report on this in World Rainforest Report No 3).

Bruce Rich, attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, (1350 New York Ave, N.W. Suite 300, Washington DC 20005) has written to us: "We are planning to launch another international pressure campaign against something worse than Polonoroeste: the Indonesian Transmigration Program: with the aim of getting them to renounce all funding in the future of colonisation and resettlement programs in pristine tropical forests inhabited by indigenous peoples. The World Bank claims that it is financing planning and site selection to make the program environmentally more sound, but transmigration is an ecological atrocity and planned ethnocide in its very conception."

Readers will recall that last March the Rainforest Information Centre participated in the international day of protest about these projects organised by the International Youth Federation. We demonstrated outside the Indonesian Embassy while John Seed spent an hour with the ambassador discussing transmigration and other problems.

In response to our letter of last April to the World Bank on the transmigration schemes in Indonesia, we have received a letter from Thomas A Blinkhorn, Chief, Public Affairs Division of the World Bank, confirming that they are funding site selection and settlement planning studies. He also states that "as a result of previous planning studies financed by the Bank, the Government (of Indonesia) has decided not to use some prospective settlement sites on the basis of environmental and social considerations, even when the sites appeared suitable in other respects".

Those words confirm how important it is to ensure that the policies of development banks move towards ecological sanity. What the World Bank refuses to fund is unlikely to happen: if, as a result of a world wide campaign, the World Bank implements the suggestions of the US Treasury, we will have moved a lot closer to protecting rainforests. Furthermore, if the World Bank had flatly refused to have anything to do with the project in the first place, the massive problems now being experienced, already resulting in the loss of many lives, would not have occurred.



Since our article on Amazonia in World Rainforest Report No 3, there has been increasing world wide attention to the problems in Brazil. At last, there seem to be some improvements. Some of these developments are:

- * a new civilian government in Brazil, which sees land redistribution as an immediate priority
- * the World Bank has delayed funding on the notorious Polonoroeste project
- * the activities of Volkswagen in clearing tropical forests for cattle ranching have been exposed.

it continues MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS IN BRAZIL

The most significant breakthrough yet in protecting the Amazon has come about through the pressure of environmentalists world wide who have convinced the World Bank to delay funding for the Polonoroeste program. This massive Amazon colonisation program, to have cost 1.6 billion dollars, would have destroyed a tropical forest area the size of West Germany: thirty four tribal groups were threatened, and countless species from this rich and unique area.

The whole purpose of the scheme was to clear peasants from the populated south of Brazil, so as to enable the large scale development of export agriculture in this fertile area: the new agricultural styles call for little labour input, in a country where labour is in surplus supply, and dollar intensive mechanised farming in a country where foreign debt remains the major development obstacle, and where 43% of the land is owned by 1% of the population.

The peasants already moved to the North - 275,000 in the state of Rondonia alone - invaded the forest, cleared it, and set up "new and productive" agricultural programs. The fertile agricultural lands they were promised simply do not exist on denuded fragile forest soil, and the peasants quickly deserted their hopeless existence to sell out to the incoming cattle ranchers: a few years of subsidised cattle remain, then desert will complete the devastation.

The result so far of this "development" has been that the rural poor are still homeless and helpless, but in addition tribal groups have had their ecologically sound way of life destroyed, the essential tree cover which is of global importance has rapidly disappeared, and the world's gene pool has continued to decline at an alarming rate.

For many years Jose Lutzenberger, the Brazilian agronomist who played a large part in drawing world wide attention to the plight of the Amazon, has been writing, speaking and producing viable alternatives to this pattern of development: he points to viable rubber tapping industries, patterns of permaculture producing up to ten times as much energy and protein per hectare as the agricultural schemes, etc.

At last, the assembled facts seem to have made an impact. Polonoroeste is no more to be, unless there is a huge backdown from the World Bank.

However, the problem of multilateral development bank lending in Brazil is far from solved: stopping Polonoroeste is just a first timid step in the right direction.

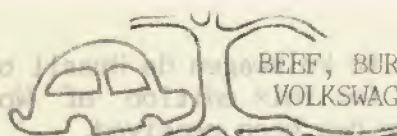
Estimates suggest that multilateral bank lending to finance cattle ranching in South and Central America is in the region of 14 billion dollars.

Next in line for destruction in Brazil seems to be the state of Acre, according to anthropologist Stephan Schwartzman. Land conflicts are already occurring, and there are fears that increased migration will cause these to multiply dramatically. In December 1984, Acre Governor Nabor Junior declared the present level of migration unsustainable. Approximately half the land in the state, which remained virgin forest until the mid 70's, is now in the hands of interests in the industrial south, many of them speculators.

Fortunately, a new civilian government in Brazil has pledged land redistribution, with plans to settle seven million landless people.

This will largely be done on land now privately owned: a brave step indeed, but the only possible solution. The new government is led by Mr Jose Sarney, who is from the North East and aware of the problems there: what remains to be seen is whether the government has the political will to overcome the problems.

Lands Minister Nelson Ribeiro heads this task. His department believes capitalism will be reinforced by the land redistribution, and points to the Mexican revolution, where land redistribution provided a more stable society.



BEEF, BURGERS, AND BEETLES VOLKSWAGEN AND THE AMAZON

Second only to the development banks and the Brazilian government in responsibility for destruction of the Amazon are the transnational companies who do so well in third world countries with large foreign debts.

Volkswagen is far from being the only culprit: Goodyear, Nixdorf Computers, Nestles, Liquigas, and Xerox are a few other companies active in the forest. However, Volkswagen has some particular claims to infamy for its activities in this area, and deserves some headlines in its own right.

Volkswagen is Brazil's largest employer in the private sector, and the largest exporter of industrial products. Given Brazil's foreign debt, there is little doubt that Volkswagen exerts huge influence on Brazilian government policies.

In 1974, according to "New Scientist", Volkswagen created history by lighting the worlds biggest planned forest fire, to clear 3900 square miles of precious tropical forest for cattle ranching activities.

Cristalino Ranch is the centre of Volkswagen's cattle ranching activities. Located near Campo Alegre, Cristalino is described in lavish terms in glossy promotional brochures, as a 70,000 hectare cattle ranch for 110,000 head of cattle.

The project has been undertaken with huge financial incentives offered by the Brazilian government through its Superintendency of the Development of the Amazon (SUDAM). According to Volkswagen, their presence "directly benefits the region as it introduces labor legislation, and a respect for taxes and new patterns of human behaviour".

New patterns of human behaviour indeed: one imagines few benefits to rural peasants and indigenous peoples of forest fires, destruction of their livelihood, and massive environmental destruction, to be replaced by respect for taxes and labor legislation.

In their promotional literature, Volkswagen also express pride in their association with "The Amazon's Largest Slaughterhouse". Here they are referring to an abattoir, rather than to their slaughter of thousands of rare species, precious tree cover and genetic resources. They boast of meeting "technical and sanitary specifications of the European Common Market and of the United States" - putting to rest the myth that their cattle ranching activities are to provide food for local people who cannot afford such luxuries, especially with their newly found "respect for taxes".

This is the beetleburger connection: much of the beef produced finds its way to the American hamburger market: the European Common Market has more beef than it can handle. Some gets consumed by the rich in the large cities of South America.

Volkswagen - the people's car?

Who benefits from this activity? Certainly it is providing fast bucks for foreign debt, but at the expense of ecocide. Even then, this activity solves nothing: the activity is so unsustainable as to only have a few years effect on a foreign debt that will linger far longer than the rainforests of Amazonia, unless a new international economic order is adopted.

What benefit is there to Brazil? Does the income to the government match the high level of subsidy to Volkswagen for setting up the ranch? Although Volkswagen's industrial activities obviously benefit the Brazilian government, we doubt whether their cattle ranching does.

What benefit is there to the local people? Very little, it seems. A few jobs for the lucky ones, but cattle ranching is not labor intensive. The values Volkswagen itself suggests (labor legislation and a respect for taxes) are hardly the aspirations of peasant rural people.

What benefit is there to humanity? Indulgence of a few already satisfied stomachs, at the cost of genetic resource destruction, species extinction, global climatic instability, environmental degradation, destruction of ancient and valuable ecosystems, and displacement of indigeneous and settled cultures.

Volkswagen, you have made a huge and tragic mistake in being led into this particular activity. You are the only real beneficiary: life on this planet is threatened by the actions of companies like yours involved in cattle ranching in tropical forests.

We have nothing against your cars, but plenty against your cattle.

VOLKSWAGEN, GET OUT OF THE FOREST!

6.

The Rainforest Information Centre wrote to Volkswagen de Brasil on this matter, asking that they reply to our allegations for this edition of World Rainforest Report. At the time of going to press no answer has been received.

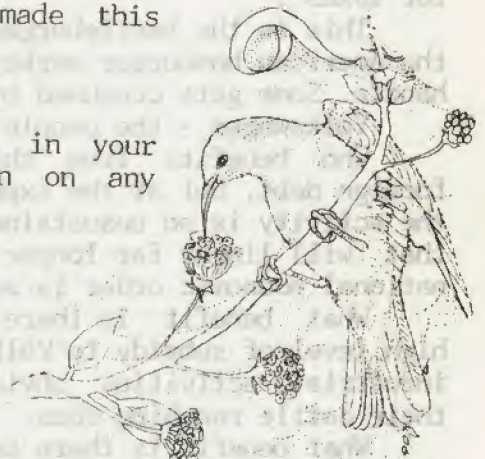
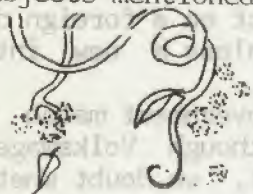
The question of international action to highlight Volkswagen's activities has been raised. We would welcome your comments.



BETLEBURGER WITH THE LOT.....

Thanks to all the individuals and groups around the world struggling on behalf of natural diversity who have made this issue of WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT possible. ♥

Please feel free to use any of our information in your journals, and to contact us for further information on any subjects mentioned. ♥



It cost us \$1.60 for printing and \$2.35 for airmail postage to send each copy of World Rainforest Report 3 to environment groups in the third world. Many of these groups cannot afford subscriptions, and in some countries, foreign exchange laws make it extremely difficult to subscribe. Yet it is of the utmost importance that these groups remain in close touch with the world rainforest action network.

not about this.....?

Most of our work is supported by donations. One friend has started sending \$50 out of each pay cheque, another donated \$400 worth of stationery. The Findhorn Community in Scotland gave us their tithe of 50 pounds, while an animal welfare organisation in the United States sent us US\$100. These and other generous donations make effective the time donated by our growing band of volunteers. May we suggest that you too "launder" your money by cycling it through mother Earth via the work of the Rainforest Information Centre?





THE VOICELESS SPEAK

Much literature on swidden agriculture lays blame on rural peoples for destruction of tropical forests. This article by Rene R Agbayani makes some important points and distinctions on this subject.

(reprinted from Kapaligiran: Newsletter of the Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern, P.O. Box 722, Manila)

"God created all things and gave each one a place. He placed man in a garden and gave him earth for his mother. The earth nurtures man, so much that he (tribal man) became like the trees in the forest, rooted to the soil. Take him away from his land and he will die."

Countless tribal peoples have uttered these immortal words. Tribal peoples have a great respect for land (which in their usage connotes environment, including the trees and animals). Tribal people look at themselves as mere stewards of the environment, not its owners. For them, it is a sacred duty to pass on their environment, intact and productive, to their descendants. Fulfilment of this responsibility elicits great pride among them. In truth, tribal people were ecologists long before their more modern counterparts came into the picture.

Unfortunately, through our colonial history and miseducation, many of us consider them to be "dirty savages wallowing in ignorance and superstition." More recently, they have been blamed by the government, and not a few environmentalists, for denuding the forests through 'Kaingin' or slash-and-burn farming (known as swidden). The great majority of non-Muslim tribal Filipinos depend on swidden as their main or secondary form of livelihood. For our purposes, we shall refer to them as traditional or indigenous swiddeners as differentiated from lowland slash-and-burn farmers.

Swidden involves the non-permanent agricultural use of sloping forest lands which are cleared by cutting back and burning off forest vegetation. The cleared area is planted during the growing season to a wide variety of crops. Observers have noted that traditional swidden plots imitate the diversity of forest vegetation in the variety of crops and vegetables raised.

Once harvested the field is left fallow for a number of years before the cycle is repeated. Among the Isnags of Apayao subprovince, it was customary to return to swidden fields after more than 10 years. If a family is cultivating a swidden plot at present, ten more plots would be lying fallow. This was possible decades ago when there were still a lot of forests. Because the fallow period was long, the forest had enough time to regenerate. They understood this key factor and they were quite aware of the dangers of the thin tropical topsoil being depleted from overuse.

This is the difference between tribals, indigenous traditional swiddeners, and inexperienced displaced lowland slash-and-burn farmers. Tribals, generally, are environmentally astute. They have a good sense of ecological swidden management. Like many original forest dwellers, they depend on the forest to live. They have no desire nor intention to damage the forests permanently. Their motto is "Livelihood". Take just enough to live. This is different from transnational corporations whose motto is "Profit!". Before the massive influx of transnational corporations in the form of logging, mining and plantation firms, as well as land-hungry lowland settlers, tribals lived for centuries in harmony with lush forests.

However, today there is a gap between traditional knowledge and practice. Traditional swiddeners have been observed to shorten the fallow period under pressure from outside. An invasion of transnational capital of tribal areas, mostly in the form of government hydro electric power dams, logging concessions, mining concessions and plantations has displaced hundreds of thousands of tribal people and lowland migrants. With displacement comes loss of livelihood, starvation and the loss of self-esteem.

8.

Desperate for survival, tribals are forced to shorten their fallow period for lack of land, or use up land that has been badly eroded just to eke out a living. In spite of their centuries old ecological practices they have to make a choice between an unstable life or death by hunger. Sometimes even this choice is taken away from them. "We could go back to our old fields. But what happens is, that the poor lowlanders take over our fields. We are unable to go back. Then there is no place left to go." narrated by a Quezon Dumagat.

Often, the same is true for migrant lowlanders. Desperate for land, they pour into the uplands. They have no more place in the lowlands because transnational (monoculture) plantations, with government blessings, have taken over their lands. The scale of this takeover is happening at an alarming rate all over the country. By decree, the present government has abrogated vast tracts of land and resources to itself and its powerful friends: transnational corporations, public and private individuals. With the export-orientated economy, they are depleting our natural resources for profit in the world international market. This is what many of us do not see, preferring to point the finger at powerless and small-scale farmers and tribals. The larger reality we choose to ignore, or is hidden from us.

Given this state of affairs, it is not difficult to see that when people are always under the threat of displacement and dispossession one cannot reasonably expect them to sink considerable investment in land. If their tenure is so insecure, one cannot hope to see them be protective of and make productive their land. Because it is usually a question of life and death, such thoughts will hardly enter their minds.

On the other side, logging companies have done a blitzkrieg operation on Philippine forests for years. There are so many foreign and local logging companies, some cutting up to 3,000 trees a day. Small tribal communities take years to consume half as much. The scale of operations is the entire country. Add up all the figures, getting the scale, intensity and other statistics, and it will come out that it is the combined operations of all the logging companies all over the country that is the main cause of forest denudation in the country.

This is not to say that tribal people and settlers do not cause a denudation. They do. Like most of us, in varying degrees, they are responsible. But these should be seen as reactions of victims of a society where there is great maldistribution of wealth and resources. When forest logging companies and the rich Filipino concessionaires have destroyed the forests, they pluck up their profits and move on to another country. Who is left to shoulder the burden? The poor low-lander and tribal Filipinos.

What tribals have been trying to say all along is that the issue of kaingin and forest protection is not that simple. So let us not offer simplistic solutions.

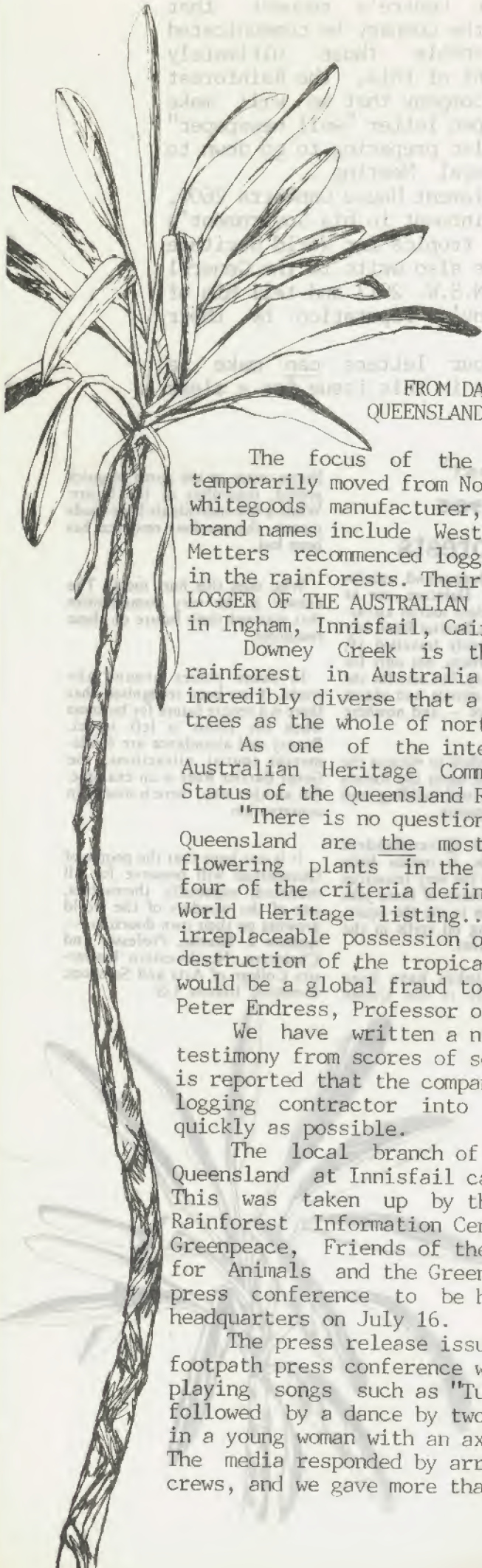
Exorcizing foreign loggers from blame and vilifying even traditional swiddeners as the number one cause of denudation is unfair and unjust. Maybe it is because their voices can hardly be heard; drowned out by government pronouncements and the more vocal members of society, especially those who consider themselves 'experts'.

Many of us talk about 'holism'. If we are to practice this approach, then we will have to look deeper into the interrelationship between the environment and the present unjust social structure. We cannot offer mere slogans or exhortations. We must be critical even of our own assumptions as part of a continuous process of learning. From a deeper social investigation, we must embark on the implementation of a clear, concrete and comprehensive plan. No more spontaneous hit and miss, not well-thought-out actions.

Our tribal brothers leave us these words, "Earth is mother. Hurt not her visage for on her bosom you are nurtured. Keep the forest, as you would your own kin. It is our sanctuary. Do this and you and your children's children, and their children after them, will live all the days of their lives in prosperity."

EARTH IS MOTHER

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT AND THE RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE NOW! DETAILS ON THE SECOND BACK PAGE



FROM DAINTREE TO DOWNEY CREEK QUEENSLAND RAINFORESTS UNDER THREAT

The focus of the Australian Wet Tropics Campaign has temporarily moved from North Queensland to Sydney where the large whitegoods manufacturer, EMAIL (turnover \$157 million) whose brand names include Westinghouse, Kelvinator, Frigidaire, and Metters recommenced logging in Downey Creek as well as elsewhere in the rainforests. Their subsidiary FOXWOODS Ltd. is the LARGEST LOGGER OF THE AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL RAINFORESTS. They have mills in Ingham, Innisfail, Cairns and Mareeba.

Downey Creek is the last large virgin lowland tropical rainforest in Australia. It is growing on basalt and is so incredibly diverse that a few hectares contain as many species of trees as the whole of northern Europe.

As one of the international referees commenting on the Australian Heritage Commission's report on the World Heritage Status of the Queensland Rainforests pointed out:

"There is no question that the tropical rainforests of North Queensland are the most important ecosystems with primitive flowering plants in the world...The region indeed fulfils all four of the criteria defined by the World Heritage convention for World Heritage listing...The region is really a priceless and irreplaceable possession of mankind as a whole. A disturbance and destruction of the tropical rainforest region of North Queensland would be a global fraud to the future of mankind as a whole."

Peter Endress, Professor of Systematic Botany, Zurich University.

We have written a number of letters to EMAIL citing such testimony from scores of scientists, but to no avail. Indeed, it is reported that the company is presently moving a second, larger logging contractor into the area to try to finish it off as quickly as possible.

The local branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland at Innisfail called for a boycott of EMAIL products. This was taken up by the Wilderness Society, and then the Rainforest Information Centre gathered other groups (including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Total Environment Centre, Fund for Animals and the Greens) behind the boycott and announced a press conference to be held outside the companies corporate headquarters on July 16.

The press release issued the day before, announced that the footpath press conference would include the Spangled Drongo band playing songs such as "Turning our Trees into Weet Bix Boxes" followed by a dance by two nature spirits which would culminate in a young woman with an axe logging a Westinghouse refrigerator. The media responded by arriving in strength, including three TV crews, and we gave more than a dozen radio interviews.

So far, EMAIL have not changed their position and have refused the Rainforest Information Centre's request that correspondence between the Centre and the Company be communicated to their 10,000 shareholders to enable those ultimately responsible to reconsider. In the light of this, the Rainforest Information Centre has informed the company that we will make contact with the shareholders via an open letter "wall newspaper" plastered up all over Sydney. We are also preparing to go down to Sydney again for the EMAIL Annual General Meeting.

Please write to Bob Hawke, Parliament House Canberra 2600, Australia expressing your deep disappointment in his Government's refusal to nominate the Queensland wet tropics for World Heritage listing. Readers in Australia, please also write to the General Manager, EMAIL, P.O. Box 4 Waterloo, N.S.W. 2017 and tell him of the harm being done to his company's reputation by their destruction of the rainforest.

We can't emphasise enough - your letters can make a difference. Read the World Bank story in this issue for a clear example.

CAIRNS POST

APRIL 20, 1985

Rainforests

THE North Queensland rainforests, especially Daintree, are as much a world-class tourist attraction as the Great Barrier Reef. My wife and I recently travelled 19,200 km to see them, not only for their great beauty, but also for the abundance of animals and plants to be found there — and nowhere else.

We were shocked to witness the damage inflicted upon the forests as a result of road-building and certain developments.

While North Queenslanders must have jobs, it makes little sense to destroy the very resources upon which so many of these jobs depend. It seems to me the equivalent of allowing oil spills in the Great Barrier Reef.

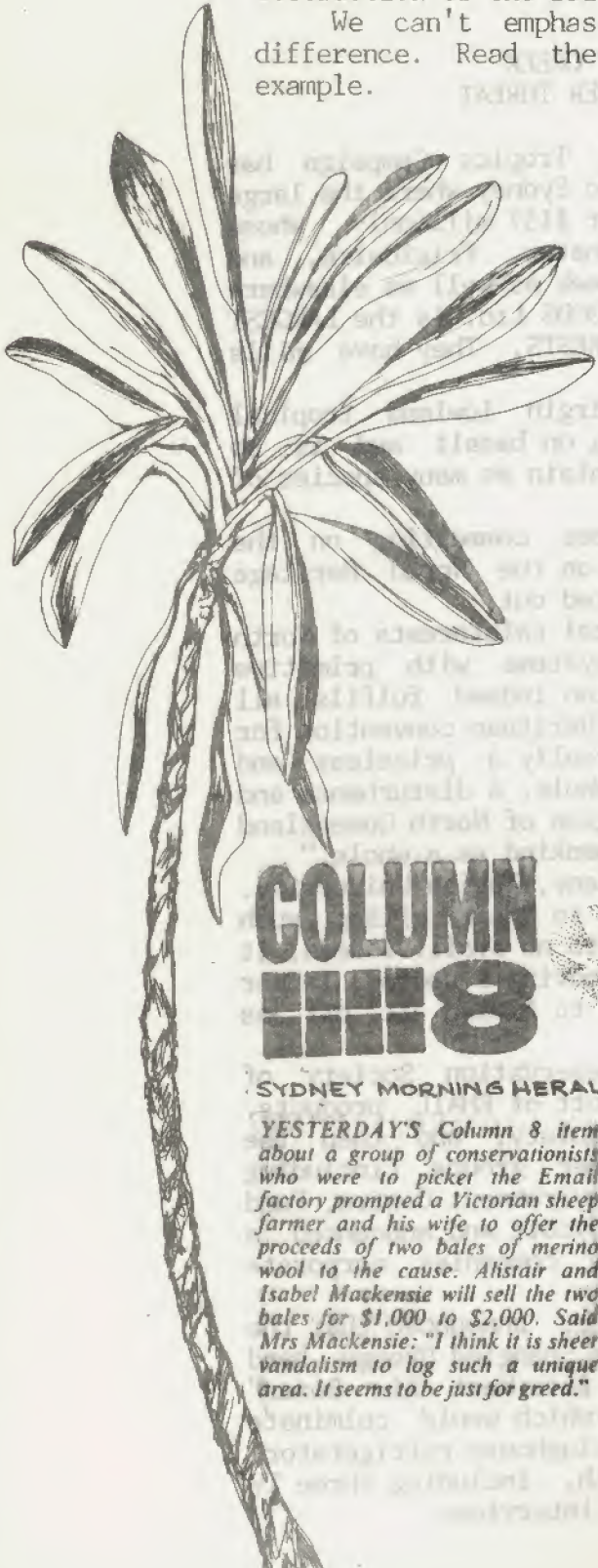
Similar mistakes have been made repeatedly in the United

States, often in the name of quick profits, regardless of the future. While a few individuals have made money, the precious resource has been lost.

Who does this hurt most? The answer is the very communities that planned their future on these resources.

In some places around the world, it has been recognised that there is a secure future for business when the forest is left intact. Beauty and abundance are fundamental tourist attractions; the Great Barrier Reef is an example. Put another way, there is money in conservation.

It is our hope that the people of Queensland will preserve for all mankind, especially themselves, one of the wonders of the world growing on their own doorstep. — Andrew J. Beattie, Professor and Chairman, Northwestern University College of Arts and Sciences, Evanston, Illinois, US.



COLUMN
8

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 17.7.85

YESTERDAY'S Column 8 item about a group of conservationists who were to picket the Email factory prompted a Victorian sheep farmer and his wife to offer the proceeds of two bales of merino wool to the cause. Alistair and Isabel Mackenzie will sell the two bales for \$1,000 to \$2,000. Said Mrs Mackenzie: "I think it is sheer vandalism to log such a unique area. It seems to be just for greed."



Magda Renner, ADEG, Rua Miguel Tostes, NQ 694, Porta Alegre, RS, BRAZIL

"...This is just to send you our enthusiastic support for the work you are doing. We have received yesterday the World Rainforest Report No. 3, and we will certainly use your information. If you have any possibility to send us the Nuremberg principle of international law, cited on p.4, we would be most grateful. Re the International Tropical Timber Agreement, we are most sceptical about its outcomings and effects. There is not one serious commitment to ecological principles - we can't see why conservationists should offer any support to it."

Patricia Domingo, David Lenderts, c/ 461 McClellan Ave, Monterey, California 91206, USA

"...We have recently returned from Brazil, after 4 1/2 months there, 2 1/2 in the state of Acre, deep in the Amazon rainforest. Hectares of the Amazon forest are for sale for about \$2. We believe it would be possible to raise money in developed countries to buy key areas of the Amazon for ecological preserves. I would appreciate any contact you could give me, especially in the States, where I could work on this idea. We plan to return to Brazil in October for 6-8 months, and hope to be in a position to provide help to those few Brazilian ecologists who need the where-with-all to preserve their "lungs of the world" jungle. Deep in the jungle, there are virtually no co-ordinated efforts to save the forest, only efforts to destroy and deforest."

Elizabeth Powell, Department of Botany, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA

"...Recently, about 600 acres of one of the last remaining lowland tropical rainforests in the United States on Hawaii Island, was clear cut, chipped to sawdust, and burned for electricity. This criminal action was perfectly legal according to Hawaii's zoning and land use laws. What was once a mature forest of 100 foot tall ohia trees with an unusual abundance of native birds was turned into a mile square swathe of devastation within a few months. The principals in this outrage all profited. The outcry of the people of Hawaii was totally ignored. Today the forest is mostly gone, and due to the fragile nature of the island ecosystem, will never return.

The area cut is on an active rift zone of Kilauea volcano and the forest was an important seed source for revegetating new lava flows which constantly invade the area. No effective public action has been taken on this problem. Please send any information you can that may be useful in organising an effective battle against this menacing cancer which threatens to wipe out thousands of acres of rainforest in Hawaii and turn our island "paradise" into a desert island."

Tania Sander, Carinya Rd, Piccadilly, South Australia

"...Just this week I found out about your marvellous organisation from a friend at school. For some time now I've been concerned about the exploitation of the world's marvellous rainforests. At the moment I am doing my matric at Heathfield High School, but I'm very willing to help out in any way where rainforests are concerned.

The problem about the logging going on in Kalimantan and other Indonesian islands worries me very much. I've heard that this is the rainforest which is being destroyed faster than any other in the world. Perhaps we could write an article in the Australian magazine "Inside Indonesia". I'd be willing to write it, given information, if no one else is available. So here's to rainforests, and the fight for their survival."

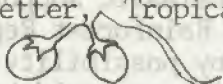
Dr. Antonio Thomen, Instituto Dominicano De Bio-conservacion, Apartado Postal 1149, Santo Domingo, DOMINICA

"...As you may read, the Dominican Republic has only 8% of its territory covered with forests. Soon we'll be a desert unless we stop cutting trees right now. But our government, who knows the problem, is doing very little on the matter. We have proposed a law that would obligate establishment of fuelwood plantations in every community. We used your Solomon Island T-shirt drawing to illustrate our articles about tree stump withdrawal in our national parks with great success - we won the battle!"

12.

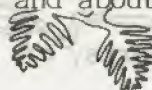
Norio Uenahashi, Japan Committee on Asian Tropical Forest, United Nations Information Centre, Tokyo, JAPAN

"...I received No. 3 of your newsletter, World Rainforest Report, a week ago and was very much impressed with your struggle to protect tropical rainforests. In the next issue of our newsletter, Tropical Forest Note, I would like to feature your campaign."



Gerardo Budowski, Centro Agronimo Tropical de Investigacion Y Ensenanza, Turrialba, COSTA RICA

"...I would like to continue to receive the World Rainforest Report ...Your newsletter is widely circulated here to staff and about 20 graduate students, ending in the main library."



Mrs Claire Cordi, 34011 Aurisina, ITALY

"I have just read in 'AAM' Terra Nuova, a newsletter from Florence, about the destruction of the most beautiful forest in the world. Here, in Aurisina, a little community trying to live with nature, we would like to help you in some way. Is there anything we can do for you? Just let us know."

Kanchana Abhayapala, Programme Director/Youth Front, Sri Lanka Environmental Federation, G 2 Anderson Golf Link Flats, 215 Park Road, Colombo 5. SRI LANKA.

"I am now at Klostermölle, the World Office of the International Youth Federation, after completing a successful Christmas Tour organised by Youth and Environment Europe (YEE), the European Regional affiliate of the International Youth Fed. for Environmental Studies and Conservation.

The purpose of the tour was to spread the awareness of international environmental problems with a view to tackling them. We spoke about Acid Rain, Environment and Development Problems in the Third World (especially Tropical Rainforest destruction and Pesticide Poisoning), the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe.

It would also be very interesting to know what we each are doing in our own countries and more specific and detailed info on environmental issues. It will help all of us in better understanding and identifying our common problems that need urgent action and attention, for joint/solidarity to be undertaken.

I would strongly urge you to send interesting articles on Asian and Pacific environmental issues to the World Secretariat, for publication in TARAXACUM, the IYF world magazine, and possibly in an Asian newsletter."

Prof. Dr. E.F. Bruenig, Leuschnerstrasse 91, D-2050 Hamburg 80 Fed. Rep. of Germany.

"I would certainly be grateful if you would continue to provide me with information...At the moment I am particularly interested in any information on pollution of rainforests.

If you have any data on inputs of pollutants into rainforest areas or on any other ecotoxicological phenomena, I would be most grateful if you would let me know."

David Heah, SAHABAT ALAM MALAYSIA (Friends of the Earth), 37 Lorong Birch, Penang, Malaysia.

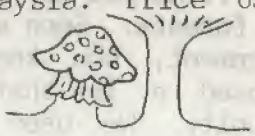
"We would like to announce the publication of our 3 latest books; we feel that these books will help to keep the West informed about the environmental activities in this part of the Third World.

1) PAPAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE DUMP CONTROVERSY: A documentation of the events leading up to the setting up of sites for the disposal of radioactive waste in Papan, Malaysia, and its link with the country's nuclear programme. Price US\$ 7.00 Air mail, US\$ 4.00 Sea mail.

2) SEEDS AND FOOD SECURITY: This covers the important aspects of vanishing genetic resources in the World and the seed situation in Malaysia. Price US\$7.00 Airmail, US\$4.00 Seamail.

3) PESTICIDES DILEMMA IN THE THIRD WORLD - A case study of Malaysia. Price US\$8.00 Airmail, US\$5.50 Seamail.

4) Latest issue of our "ASIA-PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER".



Micheal Kennedy, Fund for Animals, PO Box 371, Manly, NSW 2095.

"We need to know of all instances where the law has been inadequate to protect the habitat of a vulnerable, rare or endangered species. It may be in a natural or built up area. This issue may have been won or lost, it does not matter. The issue is whether the law helped."



SOLOMON ISLANDS, JAPAN, INDIA, THAILAND

Andrew Frame first visited the Solomon Islands in 1983 at the invitation of the now Premier of the Western Province and member of the National Parliament, Job Dudley Tausinga (see all three back issues of WRR). He is back in the Solomons now on an education project funded by the Australian Council of Churches. He is travelling from island to island in the path of the multinational loggers with his slide projector and generator, showing slides on the effects of logging, the values of rainforest (IUCN'S "Green Earth or a Dry Desert"; UNESCO'S "Man and the Humid Tropics") and our own show on sustainable development.

We are exploring the possibility with various tribal groups of conserving their traditional rainforests by foregoing the logging option, and instead, growing tropical fruit for export. The proposal is for the Rainforest Information Centre to find funding from Australian aid agencies, and volunteers from among our members (many of whom are, like Andrew, involved in fruit growing and permaculture). Andrew is also carrying IUCN'S excellent audiovisual "Planning for Survival" which describes the World Conservation Strategy and which he is hoping to show to decision makers in Honiara to urge them to implement a National Conservation Strategy.

As I am writing this, Andy is en route for the Island of Rennell at the invitation of the Council of Chiefs to show his slides and look over the area that they have marked "proposed sanctuary" on the map that they sent us. Rennell may contain the greatest proportion of endemic species in the Solomons (which country may contain the greatest proportion of endemics in the world - over 80% of the land birds that breed there, for example, are endemic.)

We publish an occasional newsletter about our work in the Solomons - please send a donation if you would like to be on this mailing list.

Also travelling at the moment is Graham Jordan of our committee who is showing the rainforest and World Conservation Strategy slides in Japan, the country responsible for more forest destruction in Asia and the Pacific than any other. He is paying his own way (i.e. not supported by your donations) as will John Seed in his forthcoming tour around India.

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In December, John Seed and Patrick Anderson will start a two or three month train journey around India with slideshows about rainforests, mangroves, and the World Conservation Strategy, as well as films about the direct actions in defence of the Australian rainforests. They are hoping to also make presentations in Sri Lanka, Bangla Desh and Nepal, and to visit natural areas and reforestation projects as well as areas where environmental conflicts are taking place. We would welcome information about other groups in India to contact about this. The scheduling for this journey is in the hands of The Gandhi Peace Foundation, 221 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi 110002, INDIA, secretary, Shri Radhakrishna.

Ian Peter of the Rainforest Information Centre attended the International Year of Peace Regional Seminar for Asia and the Pacific regions in Bangkok, organised by the United Nations. Among the points he presented were:

ON DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE :

Even when the abandonment of all weapons of war is accomplished, the human race will not have attained peace, due to threatened holocausts from environmental degradation and overpopulation.

Despite considerable scientific evidence, the human race is refusing to consider its predicted fate of extinction. It is doubtful whether we will have the political will to overcome these problems unless we fully realise that there is, simply, no other choice.

ON PREPARATION FOR LIFE IN PEACE :

The princely sum of eighty thousand dollars promised by the nations of the world to the international program of International Year of Peace is hardly indicative of real concern, and not even an expressible percentage of predicted arms expenditure : there is an inherent danger in large national programs accompanied by a small international program, given the priorities of nations.

The common belief system behind every war ever fought is that violence is a suitable way to resolve problems. The capacity to destroy all human life and most other life on this planet brings that belief system into question. Perhaps we need a belief system that regards the manufacture, stockpiling or possession of all weapons of mass destruction as a crime against humanity.

The need for planetary symbols and planetary unity could be expressed through programs to fly a planetary flag, and by an organised time of meditation and prayer on International Peace Day, 1986.

ON PEACE AND DISARMAMENT:

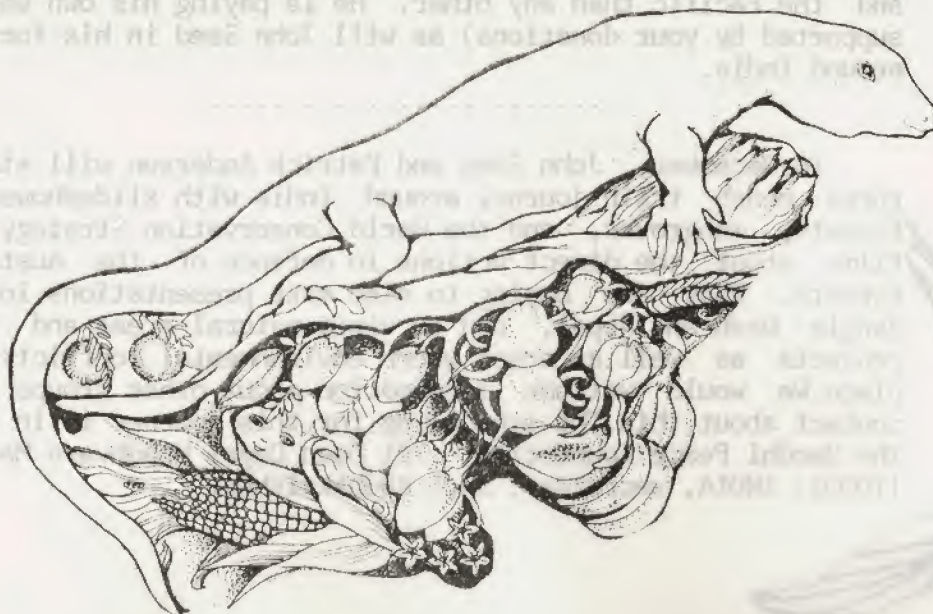
Given that forty years of disarmament discussions have yet to yield any positive results, perhaps we could change our approach.

One alternative would be to believe that violence is not a suitable way to resolve disputes.

Another would be to replace existing arms arsenals with species specific weapons, designed only to affect the combatants (humans) while leaving the other ten million species on this planet unharmed, in recognition of their non combatant status.

A third would be to find a more suitable enemy. An all out onslaught on the desert, as suggested by the "man of the trees", Dr. Richard St Barbe Baker, would both relieve our warlike tendencies and provide positive benefits for the human race.

Full texts of these speeches and other conference documents are available from the Rainforest Information Centre.



SOME OF THE RAIN FOREST NEWS

EARTHLIFE - AFRICAN INITIATIVE

Of the vast mantle of primary forest that once covered the entire coastal region of West Africa, only a few isolated stretches remain intact. Some of the last extensive tracts survive in the United Republic of Cameroon. These remnants provide refuge for an extraordinary diversity of life. The Government of Cameroon, recognising their importance, is seeking to establish a network of National Rainforest Parks, integrated within its current five-year development plan. The proposed programme would conserve 11,000 square kilometres, representing ten % of the world's protected rainforest.

The first of these parks- Korup, covers an area of 125,000 hectares and lies in the South West Province, close to the Nigerian border. A recent survey revealed 17 tree species so far unknown to science and showed it to be botanically the richest and most diverse forest ever studied in Africa. An intensive chemical screening programme has identified over 90 substances of potential economic value, 38 of which are entirely new to science. Establishment of the first three parks is expected to take five years and substantial financial and technical assistance will be required if the initiative is to succeed.

Korup will be linked to at least two major campaigns over the next couple of years. One is the World Wildlife Fund's Tropical Forest Campaign and the second is the Tropical Forest Campaign of Earthlife Foundation.

Earthlife is involved in resource conservation and sustainable development. It aims to integrate environment, technology and development, and initiate and implement projects similar to the Cameroon plan. Through its publicity campaign, Earthlife hopes to increase understanding of the forest system. It aims to mobilise financial and technical help for forest conservation and associated development projects, on a basis that will enable forests like Korup to survive, not just for five years, but into perpetuity.

Source: Earthlife, 10 Belgrave Square, London SW1X8PH, UK.

CONGO TIMBER INDUSTRY RECEIVES CREDIT FROM IFC.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is to provide credit of \$11 million for an expansion project of the timber industry in northern Congo. IFC is to make a FF12 million loan to Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB), S.A. This loan will help finance the expansion of CIB's existing logging operation at Pokola in northern Congo and the establishment of a new sawmill on the same site. The project will expand CIB's present logging capacity of 59,000 cubic metres per annum to 110,000 cubic metres per annum. Most of CIB's production will be geared toward export.

SOURCE: African Sun.....

NO BUSH - NO BIRDS

Experts of the National Audubon Society are predicting a decline in the number of migratory songbirds in the U.S. because of the destruction of their winter habitat, the tropical rain forests of Central America. At a convention of the society, Dr. George Powell, a research biologist, said trees in this region were being cut to clear pasture for cattle grazing, leaving less room for birds like warblers and vireos to nest. Marshall Howe, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stressed a decrease in U.S. forests where the birds breed in summer.

Source: Herald Tribune.

VIETNAM'S DEFORESTATION BRINGS NEW ALARM.

Vietnam faces an environmental catastrophe brought on by three decades of warfare and continuing abuse of the land by a rapidly growing population, an international conservation group has concluded in a new study. Current trends could leave the nation nearly barren of forests by the year 2000, unleashing a cycle of severe flooding of industrial and agricultural lands and causing food and energy shortages, according to the study by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.). Today less than 23% of the nation is covered by forest, down from 44% in 1943, with a huge barren area encroaching on agricultural and forest land. "One third of the country is now considered wasteland," the study said.

Citing figures provided both by the Vietnamese Government and U.S. sources, the report said the war cost Vietnam 26 million cubic yards of commercial timber and rendered useless more than 365,000 acres of rubber plantations, either from bombing, bulldozing or spraying of herbicides. Officials of the I.U.C.N. said U.S. statistics indicated that more than 19 million gallons of herbicides, known as agents orange, white and blue, were dumped on croplands and forests. The herbicides contained dioxins that remain at toxic levels today. The report cited Vietnamese figures that more than 4 million acres are affected.

The report also contends that U.S. forces destroyed dikes and other "agricultural productive systems", created landslides in steep areas by bombing and by spraying an unidentified acid on limestone, attacked wildlife such as elephants and oxen with guns, bombs and napalm to prevent their use for transportation, and devastated large areas of land with saturation bombing- 25 million bomb craters caused the displacement of a billion cubic metres of earth.

Source: New York Times.

SUDAN - THE UPPER TALANG TEA PROJECT

Negotiations began recently in Luxemburg for the Third Convention of Lome. The convention is aimed at determining development co-operation between the European Community and the 63 so-called African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries. Up until now, Lome has paid scant attention to the deterioration of the natural environment in the ACP countries. In this respect the European Community lags way behind large donors such as the World Bank, the American Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Asian Development Bank.

Important ecological blunders have been made in the past, when they could have been avoided. A striking example is the Upper Talang Tea Project in Sudan, financed by the European Development Fund.

Unfortunately this estate was sited in the very middle of a protected forest reserve, containing one of the few closed tropical rainforests in Sudan!

Almost 500ha of these forests were cut down to make way for the tea plantation. The wood, mainly valuable hardwood, was not even utilised, but was simply dumped into a nearby ravine. Moreover a complete new road was constructed, creating a second entry to the reserve. As a result labourers attracted by the project, have easy access to the centre of the reserve and will continue to clear the forest.

The site of the tea project was about the worst possible choice. Much environmental damage could have been avoided if the project had been located outside the reserve.

Hopefully the Third Convention of Lome will give more attention to environmental problems than before.

Source: FoE Link

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS, BAY OF BENGAL, INDIA.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a group of over 300 islands, islets and coral reefs which were covered by 7 different types of dense humid forest with biological wealth unsurpassed by any other region in India. Like the forests of the Amazon and Central African belt it had an unbroken history of at least 60 million years of evolution. Colonisation after the war began the mass deforestation, and the Indian Forest Dept. categorised the area as a high production zone, of the total 8293 sq. km. 5000 is considered to be productive or exploitable. The forest revenue in 1981-82 contributed 86.8% of the total state revenue.

Any kind of tampering with these plant communities leads to their disintegration and renders the area unproductive. Moreover the very physical existence of the islands is threatened by the destruction of the protective belt of mangroves and littoral forests. Attempts to plant Paduak and Teak in 1954 failed due to poor growth, hollowing and terminal bud die-back. Perhaps the most crucial factor necessary to maintain the tropical evergreen forests is the microclimate within it, such alterations as opening the canopy by felling 'over mature' trees, and the movement of heavy machinery that damages the top soil.

Since 1948 the face of these islands has completely changed, as all the best tree growth was cleared for colonial settlers. There is every possibility that the best areas as far as timber is concerned have already been worked to the limit. But the quantum of extraction is decided more by the demand of industry than what the forest can actually yield. 8 major industries and 34 smaller ones extract about 1105,000 CuM of timber annually. The obvious conclusion is that soon a crisis point will be reached.

The Govt. has offered a token gesture by declaring 4 small islands (less than 10 sq km) as Wildlife Sanctuaries. The proposal to declare the uninhabited Tarmugli group of islands and coral reefs (over 234 sq. km) into a marine National Park has to be adopted to stop the massive illegal collection of shells and corals. Priority areas to be saved are the Little Andaman islands, Little Nicobar and Tillanchong.

The population depends on agriculture (paddy fields), but they do not have self-sufficiency in food. An economic-ecological analysis showed that the islands are not suitable for agricultural plantations. It would be impossible for human beings to survive on these islands without the natural forest cover, in fact the very physical existence of these islands is bound to its vegetation. Moreover, the forests, mangroves and coral reefs are a national and international wealth and a rightful heritage of mankind, and as such should be perpetuated and utilized as human knowledge develops to harness the global resources for sustainable and egalitarian betterment of man. Source: Report by S Satish Chandran Nair and S Santhi (25pp) - available from RIC.

PHILIPPINES MAHOGANY GONE IN FIFTEEN YEARS?

The United Nations predict that, if present trends continue, by the year 2000, all the virgin dipterocarps, the family to which the Philippine mahogany group belongs, will have disappeared. Philippine forests are being destroyed at the rate of two hectares per hour, certainly one of the fastest in the world. If present patterns continue, a consortium of Philippine research organizations conclude that all original old-growth forests will have been cut down by the year 2000. Worse still, projected timber supplies from second growth forests and plantations will not be sufficient to meet even the country's domestic needs.

This scenario is confirmed by a report from the Southeast Asia Research Center for Agriculture in Los Banos, Laguna. It estimates that annual demand for wood will go up to 10 million cubic meters by the year 2000. This is 7 million cubic meters more than the 3 million cubic meters predicted by the Bureau of Forest Development as the wood output for that year. In short, Filipinos will be importing by then a commodity they have been exporting for a long time.

Source: Kapaligaran

TIMBER FOR TROPICAL FORESTS - MALAYSIA

After monsoon rains fall on earth left exposed by loggers in Northern Borneo, the rivers run red as the land's life blood, the precious top soil, is washed away. Forests collapse, rivers silt up, animals and fish die and people suffer. In Malaysia the trees are being axed at an alarming rate. "Deforestation is about double, or more, the world average and peninsular Malaysia may already become a timber importer in the 1990's," a World Wildlife Fund study said.

More timber is left to rot than is hauled out. Saplings are damaged, ground is laid bare, causing soil erosion and inhibiting new growth. Roads into the forest turn into rivers of red laterite clay in the frequent rains. This flows into the rivers which silt up. State regulations forbid such practices but they either are not enforced or are ignored, according to timber trade sources. "Nobody gives a damn about regulations," said one Sarawak naturalist. "A contractor is often working on a wafer-thin profit margin and has to cut corners."

Concessions are granted by state governments which have used them to reward supporters and gain political influence, according to political sources. Neither Governments nor private firms have made much effort at replanting while untouched forest still remains.

Source: Robert Mahoney, Reuters.

JAPANESE MOVE TO SAVE FORESTS.

A group consisting largely of academics has formed in Japan to promote GREEN CIVILISATION and hopes to become an international organization. Founder members include Kenichi Fukui, Nobel prize winner in chemistry, and Mostafa Tolba, secretary general of the U.N. Environment Program. The organization has been set up due to concern over deforestation and desertification of the Earth. The move is significant in that Japanese companies have been heavily involved in the destruction of tropical rainforest in S.E. Asia. Indeed, the nation was dubbed an "ecological menace" in a report recently adopted by the Environment Commission of the European Communities for "pillaging natural resources in the most irresponsible way possible, and ravaging tropical rainforests for hardwoods".

During Japan's high growth phase, huge tracts of land were stripped of all vegetation in many parts of S.E. Asia to provide building materials and pulp for Japan; although direct involvement by Japanese companies in the worst of these practices has now lessened, the amount of tropical forest lost each year has increased and Japan remains the major Asian market. The Green Civilization Society says it intends to try and put the ecological point of view over to industrial companies involved in logging.

Source: Nature Magazine.

MEARES ISLAND - CANADA

Meares Island, off the West coast of Canada, has been occupied by the Clayoquot and Ahousat native people for a minimum of 7000 years, about as long as the Western red cedar has lived there. Meares Island has never been sold, conquered, gifted or ceded by treaty to any nation, and yet in 1905 the provincial govt. issued a Tree-Farm licence and logging has been carried out as late as 1972. The rainforest supports the largest wolf pack in Vancouver and the largest cedar tree in Canada, 61 feet tall.

At a public planning meeting where preservation of the site was considered, Macmillan Bloedel Ltd, the giant multinational timber company walked out and submitted a logging application to the Ministry of Forestry which was quickly accepted. The local people formed into a unity of resistance and the Clayoquot band declared the island as a Tribal Park open to all non-destructive uses. The Village Council unanimously accepted this declaration.

A fight began, where tens of thousands of metal spikes were driven into the sacred trees, impossible to pull out by conventional means. Macmillan Bloedel then contracted a two-part hydraulic spike puller to remove the spikes at a cost of \$2-3000 per spike. A single spike missed could shut down a high-speed sawmill for many hours.

Natives and whites then moved into Heelboom Bay and blockaded logging boats that arrived and over 100 people refused to allow them into the forest. Clayoquot Chief Moses Martin explained, "This is my garden..."

Tree protectors continued to occupy the island building a small base camp while a case was heard before the Canadian Supreme Court to prohibit logging. In January the court ruled that logging should continue discounting any validity to oral history and stating that native rights had extinguished. Following the decision over 250 people gathered at the bay, and an appeal began. Macmillan Bloedel retired from the front and an unprecedented decision was handed down by three of five court judges to prohibit logging until the full native land claims are settled.

Meares Island Tribal Park continues to be developed with trails and tent sites. The issues of forestry and environment were never addressed by the courts. However the power of unity between natives and whites was discovered and they succeeded in buying some time for Meares Island. For further info contact: CJ Hinke, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Box 489, Tofino, BC., V0R 2Z0. CANADA.

SUCH IS BIOGEOCHEMICAL CONTINUITY - NEW GUINEA

The New Guinea highlanders, according to the University of Queensland zoologist Peter Dwyer, find the rainforest wildlife not only good to eat but also good to think. He goes on to note that, "Whilst we don't eat our rainforests, we do become enmeshed in our perceptions and thinking about them, until they suddenly and vividly possess for us values that we can only identify as symbolic, intrinsic and - with some desperation - as spiritual. The tropical rainforests are primitive and ancient ecological systems whose origins stretch backwards through the emergence of the flowering plants in Jurassic times over 135 million years ago to the plants preserved in the coal measures of the Carboniferous millions of years before that and which appear to us today in the form of plastics. Such is biogeochemical continuity."

Source: Habitat Australia.

FORESTS IN PERIL ACROSS INDIA

Decades of abuse and mismanagement of its once abundant forests threaten to make India a nation devoid of trees by the year 2000. Government officials and environmentalists warn that as each tree vanishes, India becomes more vulnerable to deadly landslides and floods and falls further behind in meeting the food and fuel requirements of its more than 700 million people.

Using conventional ground survey methods, officials at the Ministry of Agriculture concluded that nearly 23% of the nation is forested. But according to a more sophisticated satellite study by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the figure is actually less than 14%. As the trees and their root systems die, the natural water filtration function of the soil is impaired, exacerbating the disease potential in a nation where only 10% of the population drinks water that meets minimum health requirements.

"Deforestation is directly linked to health and poverty," said Anjali Mookjeejee, the dean of Nehru University's School of Environmental Sciences. "You can't isolate these problems any more." Shortages of wood have even given rise to organized gangs of tree pirates who have turned some forests into virtual war zones.

Source: U.P.I.

PANAMANIAN INDIANS CREATE OWN NATIONAL PARK

The Kuna Indians, a group of Amerindians of north-east Panama, have recently decided, partly as a measure to avoid encroachment on their territory by land-hungry colonists, that the best solution is to create a large National Park (and probably eventually a Biosphere Reserve) managed and controlled by themselves, with support from the Washington-based Inter-American Foundation, AID and CATIE. The Kunas have asked for help to prepare a management plan and to train their people in such things as designing a detailed interpretative plan of the rich heritage of plants and animals as well as landscapes, and of their own culture.

Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

CHIPPING AWAY AT TASMANIA'S RAINFORESTS

Tasmania is the heartland of Australia's cool temperate rainforest. It is the only state in Australia where it grows in great unbroken tracts - up to 70,000 hectares in area - yet it's being woodchipped. Where rainforest occurs with over 5% eucalypt cover, it is clearfelled, burnt and replaced with fast growing eucalypts. The loggers are interested mainly in the eucalypts - most of the rainforest timbers are burnt on the ground. Some of the wood is used for sawlogs, some for the domestic paper-making industry, but most is exported to Japan as woodchips. And Tasmania exports more woodchip than the rest of Australia combined.

Where rainforest occurs with less than 5% eucalypt it is allowed to be called rainforest by the Tasmanian Forestry Commission, and is protected, for the time being, by a moratorium which ends in 1988. The companies, particularly Associated Pulp and Paper Manufacturers have already constructed roads into prime rainforest country on rich basaltic soils. You can help save rainforest in Tasmania by writing to Environment Minister, Barry Cohen, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2601 asking for the protection of all Tasmanian rainforests and by imposing woodchip export licence restrictions.

Source: Australian Conservation Foundation and Wilderness Society.

SAVING THE PLANTS THAT SAVE US

Our future depends on how well we take care of the world's wild plants, many of which have not been botanically identified.

According to Paul Spencer Wachtel, the Public Affairs Coordinator of the World Wild Life Fund International, the problem of identification is greatly compounded because the plant habitats themselves are being eroded at the rate of 20ha per minute.

In his Winter Lecture Series address at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England in March, he emphasized that all human activities were plant dependent, and wild plants in particular appeared to offer humanity new hope in all fields of endeavour if their habitats could be saved from destruction by loggers and uncontrolled agriculture.

Illustrating wild plant usage, he said that 40% of all our medicines are made from natural ingredients.

Modern surgery relies on the muscle relaxant tubocurarine, a plant - derived poison used by South American Indians for their arrows in hunting.

Yet another poison *Clibadium Sylvestre*, also used by South American Indians as a fish poison, may prove useful in heart surgery to stop the heart in a manner allowing it to be restarted.

The rosy periwinkle offers a cancer cure for childhood leukemia and Hodgkins disease.

An aphid resistant potatoe from Bolivia may save the UK 35 million pounds sterling annually, presently spent on fighting aphid transmitted diseases, if these characteristics can be successfully cross-bred.

Tropical rainforests contain 60% of the world's species of plants and animals, but only 1% of the world's plants have been studied for their possible benefits to mankind.

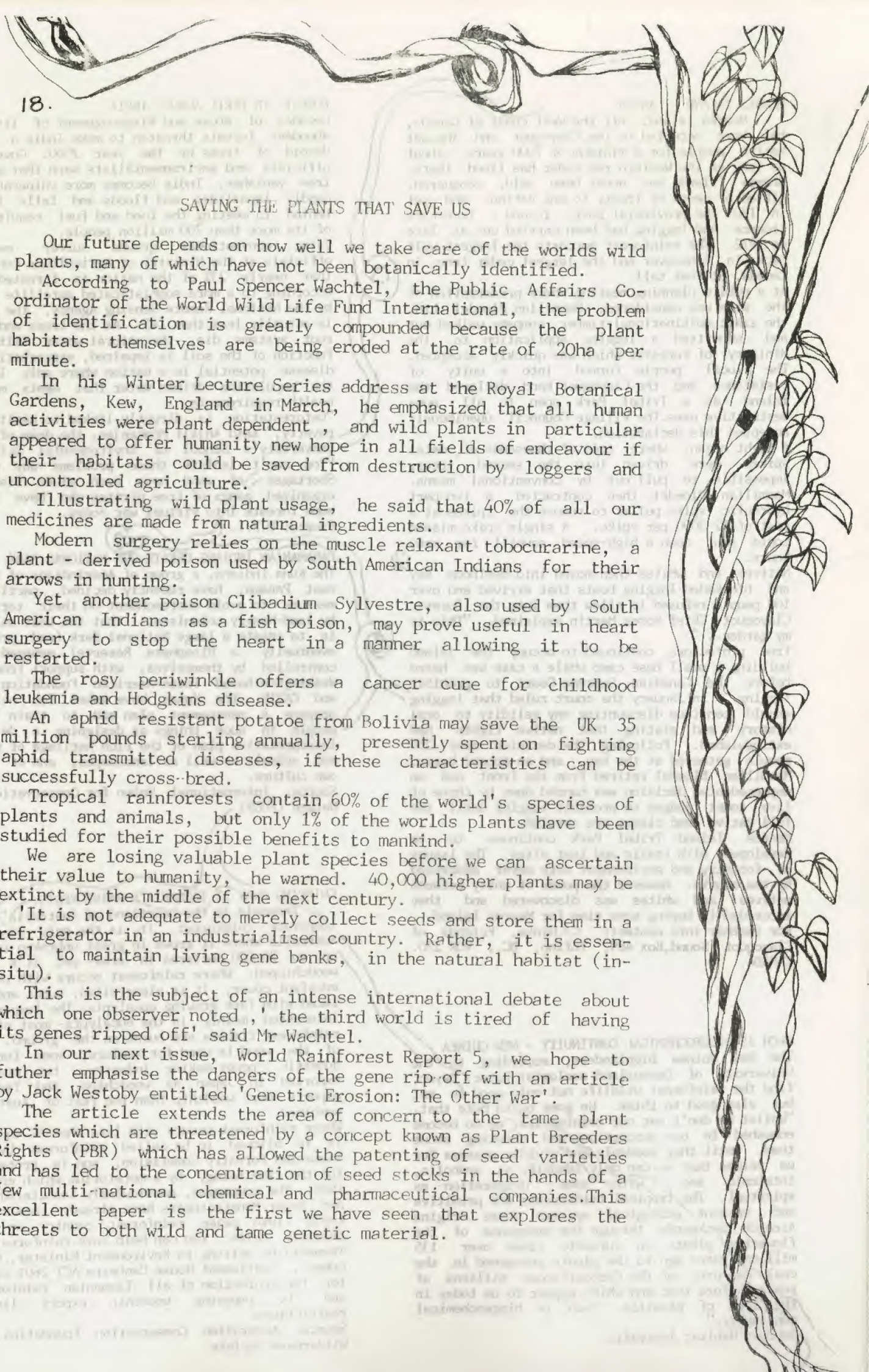
We are losing valuable plant species before we can ascertain their value to humanity, he warned. 40,000 higher plants may be extinct by the middle of the next century.

'It is not adequate to merely collect seeds and store them in a refrigerator in an industrialised country. Rather, it is essential to maintain living gene banks, in the natural habitat (in situ).

This is the subject of an intense international debate about which one observer noted, 'the third world is tired of having its genes ripped off' said Mr Wachtel.

In our next issue, World Rainforest Report 5, we hope to further emphasise the dangers of the gene rip-off with an article by Jack Westoby entitled 'Genetic Erosion: The Other War'.

The article extends the area of concern to the tame plant species which are threatened by a concept known as Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) which has allowed the patenting of seed varieties and has led to the concentration of seed stocks in the hands of a few multi-national chemical and pharmaceutical companies. This excellent paper is the first we have seen that explores the threats to both wild and tame genetic material.

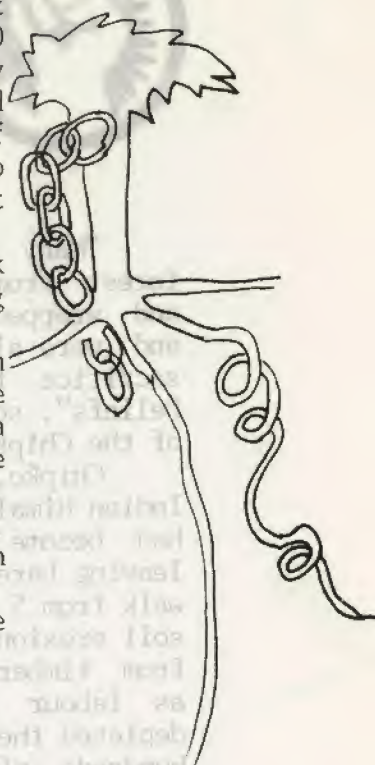


RAINFOREST ROADSHOW - EARTH FIRST!

Earth First!er's Randy Hayes and Mike Roselle have just completed a succesful Rainforest Roadshow Tour covering 3000 miles on road and 8000 in the air across the United States. They were joined by others along the way including Gary Snyder and Jonathan Richman to put on their music and slide show of deforestation in Central America. In between roadshows they also visited Burger King's headquarters in Florida for a rainforest conference.

Earth First! is now setting up its own rainforest network called RAIN, and they were able to spread much information along their way, receiving great public interest and enthusiasm. They are now including a 6 page Rainforest Action newsletter in Earth First! journal (highly recommended! \$15 U.S.; \$25 elsewhere to Box 235 Ely, Nevada 89301, USA). They are planning a conference in San Francisco this November, to discuss the formation of an international network and US Rainforest Campaign. They hope to include representatives from Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Solomon Islands, Hawaii, India and South and Central America.

Contact: Randy Hayes, Rainforest Information Centre, 1045 Sansome St., San Fransisco. California. USA.



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Utne Reader

APRIL/MAY 1985



Australian protesters use their heads

"BEST PROTEST USING YOUR HEAD: Militant Conservationists in Australia chained concrete slabs to their feet and buried themselves up to their necks to block bulldozers destroying irreplaceable rainforests."



HUGGING THE HIMALAYAS - THE CHIPKO STORY

"Many centuries ago 365 women, determined to protect their forest from the axes of the Maharaja's army, entered the forest and wrapped their arms around the trees. They refused to move and were all hacked to pieces, but on hearing of their bloody sacrifice the Maharaja vowed never again to violate their beliefs", so goes the old Indian legend that is the central focus of the Chipko movement of today.

Chipko, which means 'to embrace', began in 1973 in the Indian Himalayan region, Uttar Pradesh, where local tribal people had become increasingly threatened by deforestation that was leaving bare slopes where dense forest once grew. Women had to walk from 5 to 13km to collect fuelwood. Floods, landslides, and soil erosion had become a common feature of the area. Development from timber companies provided little benefit for the villagers as labour was contracted. It disrupted their culture and depleted their resources. In 1970 the Alakhnanda River flooded, hundreds of homes were swept away, 200 died and silt clogged nearly 100 miles of canal, halting irrigation for nearly 6 months. Village life is completely interwoven with that of the forest, providing food, fuel, fodder, building materials, their social relations, and a sense of belonging to the trees that is the basis of culture. A report was prepared and the villagers realised that the same forest policy that denied them fair use of forest resources was gradually destroying their mountain home.

In the Uttar Pradesh it is the women who are the nucleus of the family and responsible for cultivation and food production. Hence it was the women who led the movement against the forest destroyers. In 1973 the Chipko movement began at Gopeshwar where 10 Ash trees had been allotted to a Sports Company. The company arrived and were asked by the villagers not to cut the trees. When they persisted the women marched with drums and song, gathering people on their way, and put their arms around the trees. The company retreated. A year later Chipko had its biggest success when 2,500 trees were marked for sale in the village of Reni. Again the women saved the trees embracing them, singing "This forest is our mother's home, we will protect it with all our might.". News of the successful protests spread and similar demonstrations took place all over the district and in other parts of India, saving many forest areas.

By 1976 the Indian Government was sufficiently convinced of the seriousness of the situation to declare a 10 year ban on logging on hillsides above 1000m.

However, Chipko did not stop there; they started India's most successful reforestation program with emphasis on local village life. More than 1 million cyprus, walnut, oak, poplar and other trees have been planted all over India and felling has been stopped in many places. Camps have been set up, not only concerned with planting but also with environmental education. Local village discussion groups have formed and these became a basis for contact with local authorities. These projects are spreading all over India with funding from the World Bank and other agencies.

BOOK REVIEWS

DREAMS OF AMAZONIA, by Roger D Stone, Viking, N.Y., 1985, US \$17.95.

review by Professor Bill Devall

Roger Stone is a journalist and conservationist with long experience in Brazil. DREAMS OF AMAZONIA traces four hundred years of false assumptions in Amazon development, ignoring the sustainable systems of agriculture used by Amazon Indians. Stone concludes that the destruction of Amazonia will continue unless there is a basic change in Brazilian national ambitions and a change in US government aid programs which currently result in massive development failures rather than ecologically sensitive experiments which meet the expectations of the land.

THE GAIA ATLAS OF PLANET MANAGEMENT ed. by Norman Myers, Pan Books.

"The Gaia Atlas is a stunning book. Read this book. Don't just read it: buy it. If you have teenagers or students in the house, get them to look at the illustrations. If you are a teacher, present a copy to the school library. If you dabble in politics, ask your MP or congressman to read the book. If you lend your copy, make sure you get it back.

If any book can teach a nation how to control its collective self-interest, it is the Gaia Atlas of Planet Management"

Lord Eric Ashby, *New Scientist*

"the vanguard of a new generation... a new milestone in educational literature, a pioneer publication..."

David Bellamy

"probably the most important book to date to inform us how to inhabit our planet home"

Gerald Durrell

DAINTREE - WHERE THE RAINFOREST MEETS THE REEF

available from Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, Victoria 3122, Australia, price A\$28.95.

With stunning photography by leading photographers and text by Rupert Russell, this book includes beautiful photos of this threatened rainforest area, and supports the effort to save this unique and magnificent piece of world heritage.

Deep Ecology

STEPHANIE MILLS: This book is an attempt at codifying a scattered body of ecological thought into a philosophy that places human beings on an absolutely equal footing with all the other creatures on the planet. They call this relation "biocentric equality" and the world view they extrapolate from it is radically different from that which informs society today, including the society of earnest professional environmentalists. Devall and Sessions suggest that the ideal of biocentric equality, by its very existence, can revolutionize the conventional or "reform" environmentalism which they so gingerly criticize.

What they're about, in part, is the much-despised but quite necessary task of saying This isn't radical enough. They even gripe about vegetarianism and the animal rights movement (ideological purists may be lousy on near-term results, but they keep the frontiers way out there).

Yet their assumption — that the ecological crisis is a mortal one, that its roots lie in human consciousness, and that that consciousness must be changed — is gaining ground in a variety of quarters. Consciousness-change is slippery stuff: talk can simulate it, and talk is cheap. Devall and Sessions foreclose the possibility that deep ecology might just become another rhetoric by cataloging the various courses of action incumbent on the deep ecologist. Because the ecological crisis, whose utter gravity they presume, is too urgent to allow for the luxury of discarding any insufficiently radical technique that might buy time through mitigation, they wisely criticize but do not condemn the conventional environmental tactics that keep man at the center of concern and that reinforce, through use, the conventions of central government.

In addition, they advocate drastic necessities, calling for stabilization and then reduction of the human population. Shockingly, they exempt deep ecological activists from devising a full-employment program to ameliorate the inevitable loss of jobs that would accompany the changes implied by their critique of our current world view. In unenlightened terms, deep ecology means tough shit for individual humans, but not for the species:

Deep Ecology

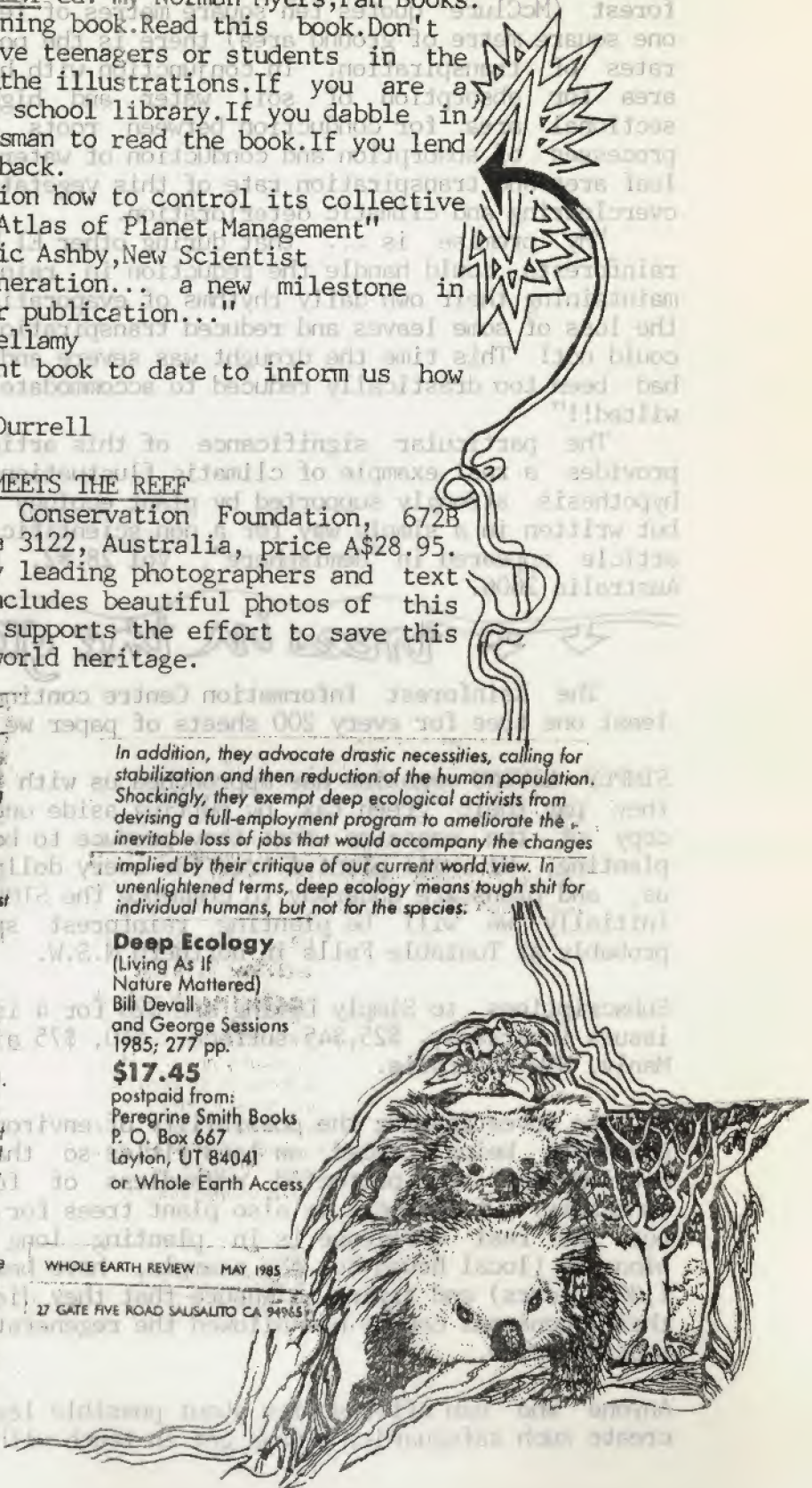
(Living As If Nature Mattered)
Bill Devall
and George Sessions
1985; 277 pp.

\$17.45

postpaid from:
Peregrine Smith Books
P. O. Box 667
Layton, UT 84041
or Whole Earth Access

WHOLE EARTH REVIEW MAY 1985

27 GATE FIVE ROAD SAUSALITO CA 94965



H. Elliott McClure in "The Wilted Forest" paints a chilling illustration of climatic change induced by rainforest fragmentation. The events described occurred in the equatorial rainforest in Malaysia during January to April 1983. The failure of the north-east monsoon, a periodic phenomenon associated with El Nino ocean currents was of more drastic consequence because of concurrent failure of convectional storms.

McClure analyses the balance between precipitation and transpiration, the process by which plants return soil water to the atmosphere and indicates how undisturbed rainforests encourage more convectional rainfall than the altered ecosystems rapidly replacing them.

Because of the high total leaf area in lowland equatorial forest (McClure quotes ten square metres of leaf area for each one square metre of ground area) there is the potential for high rates of transpiration. In conjunction with high root surface area for absorption of soil water and high sapwood cross sectional area for conduction between roots and leaves, the processes of absorption and conduction of water support the high leaf area and transpiration rate of this vegetation type, before overclearing and climatic deterioration.

"My premise is ... that during other El Nino cycles the rainforests could handle the reduction in rainfall, either by maintaining their own daily rhythms of evaporation and rain or by the loss of some leaves and reduced transpiration. This time they could not! This time the drought was severe and the forest cover had been too drastically reduced to accommodate it. The forest wilted!!"

The particular significance of this article is that it provides a real example of climatic fluctuations and a plausible hypothesis strongly supported by plant ecology and physiology, but written in a simple way for a non-scientific readership. The article appeared in "Hemisphere", Vol 28 #2, PO box 826 Woden Australia 2606.

→ → trees in the ground

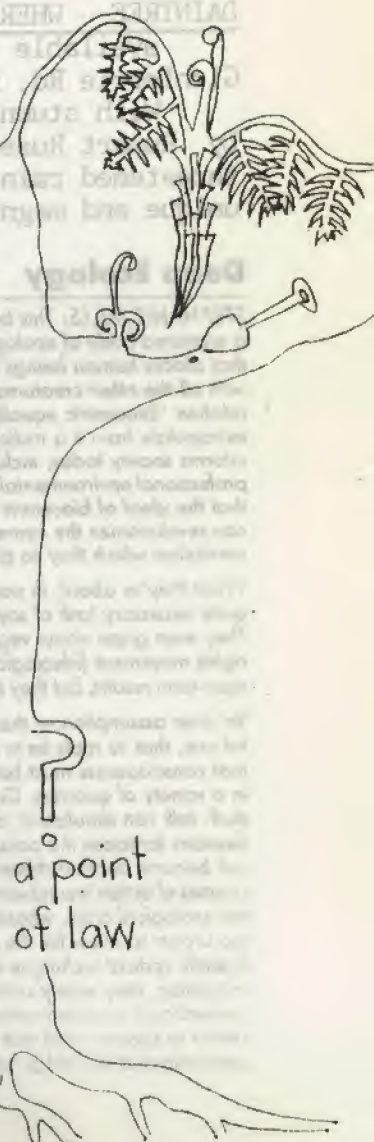
The Rainforest Information Centre continues to plant at least one tree for every 200 sheets of paper we use.

SIMPLY LIVING magazine has approached us with the proposal that they pay their "green tax" by putting aside one cent from each copy of the magazine that they produce to be used for tree planting. We will plant a tree for every dollar that they send us, and plans are underway to commence the SIMPLY LIVING FOREST. Initially we will be planting rainforest species for them, probably at Tuntabale Falls in northern N.S.W.

Subscriptions to Simply Living are \$20 for 4 issues, \$35 for 8 issues (overseas, \$25, \$45 surface, \$40, \$75 airmail) to box 704 Manly, NSW Australia.

We are investigating the possibility of environmental protection covenants being placed on land titles so that any plantings carried out are protected regardless of future changes of ownership. Of course, we also plant trees for timber and paper, but the real challenge is in planting long lived rainforest pioneers (local Brush Box for example, have been carbon dated at 1,300 years) and trying to ensure that they die of old age once their generous canopy has allowed the regeneration of the climax species below.

Anyone who can offer advice about possible legal mechanisms to create such safeguards, please get in touch with us.



Rainforest Information Centre

P.O. BOX 368 LISMORE N.S.W. 2480 AUSTRALIA

THE RAINFORESTS ARE THE WOMB OF LIFE, home to half of the world's ten million species of plants and animals. They are presently being destroyed at the rate of 80 ha./minute and at the present rate, they will be annihilated within our lifetimes.

The RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE is a non-profit conservation organisation founded in 1980. Donations to the Rainforest Information Centre are tax-deductible within Australia by making them out to the Australian Conservation Foundation, 672b Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn 3122, and asking that they be used for the purposes of the Rainforest Information Centre.

Hundreds of copies of World Rainforest Report and other rainforest publications are sent out free to third world environment groups and individuals.

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT is the journal of the world rainforest action network. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE for four issues - \$10 - Australia; \$15 elsewhere.

SUBSCRIBE NOW AND JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE RAINFORESTS!

"Give Trees a Chance" - VHS video of the direct actions at Terania Creek - \$50

SOLOMON ISLANDS NEWSLETTER

For the last three years we have been working on a conservation/benign development project in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands Support Group publishes an occasional newsletter. Please send a donation if you would like to be on this mailing list.

During the NSW rainforest campaign, over 50 scientists from throughout the world wrote to NSW Premier Wran with reasons why the rainforests should be protected. He was so impressed by what he learned that, after establishing six new national parks around the best of the states rainforests, he has nominated them for world heritage status and written an introduction to our booklet.

"WORLD SCIENTISTS WRITE TO PREMIER WRAN ABOUT RAINFORESTS" \$3.00 & postage

POSTERS

Two exquisite line drawings by Dailan Pugh (including the one used as back cover of World Rainforest Report 3) - 42cm. x 30 cm. price includes postage within Australia. (Overseas postage extra)

.....\$3

laminated in plastic.....\$4

TAPES

"THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY" 60 minute documentary tape with original music of the direct actions that led to preservation of NSW rainforests. "It is the emotion, the commitment, the inspiration that floors you....the music is superb". Earth First!

\$7.00 & postage

RAINFREE TAPE - Produced December '84. \$7.00

RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE GREETING CARDS, drawings by Dailan

1. Small marsupials (Brown Antechinus)
2. Satin Bowerbird, male displaying to female
3. Leaf-tailed Gecko with Pothos vine.
4. Grey-headed flying fox

set of four, \$2, 60c each & postage

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